

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SCCT-01

OMB-01 IO-11 /082 W

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O 081026Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8900

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. AKKAR REGION QUIETED DOWN OVER WEEKEND ALTHOUGH AS OF YESTERDAY WE WERE TOLD THAT MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS ARE STILL FACING EACH OTHER IN THEIR POSITIONS THERE EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A CEASEFIRE. MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR CEASEFIRE AND FOR GETTING EVACUATION OF LEBANESE ARMY PEOPLE WHO HAD GONE UP THERE TO JOIN THEIR FELLOW VILLAGERS.

2. THINGS ARE ALSO QUIET IN BEIRUT ALTHOUGH LARGE NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS IN JOUNIEH AND CHRISTIAN AREAS OF BEIRUT APPARENTLY RESULTED IN KILLING ON A PURELY SECTARIAN BASIS REMINISCENT OF SITUATION A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. ON POSITIVE SIDE, LEBANESE ARMY ACTUALLY ARRESTED SEVEN
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MEN FOR CARRYING ARMS ON THE HAMRA YESTERDAY, SUNDAY.

THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STRICT NEW INSTRUCTIONS OF HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE OUTLAWING THE CARRING OF ARMS IN THE CITY, WEARING OF UNIFORMS, ROADBLOCKS AND SHOOTING ON ANY PRETEXT. SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ENJOINED TO SHOOT TO KILL ANY ARMED MEN WHO DO NOT SURRENDER THEIR ARMS AFTER ONE WARNING. SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF COURSE AND WE HAVE NOT YET HAD NEWS OF ANY INCIDENT OF FORCIBLE DISARMING BEYOND THAT ON THE HAMRA.

3. AT BIG RALLY IN SIDON IN HONOR OF MAROUF SAAD, VARIETY OF PALESTINIANS AND LEFT WINGERS SPOKE ABOUT CHANGE IN LEBANON. JUMBLATT PUSHED HIS CUSTOMARY LINE ON NEED TO CHANGE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN THE COUNTRY. NUMBER TWO MAN IN FAT#, KHALAF, PLEDGED PALESTINIAN DESIRE TO AVOID INTERFERING IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON WINNING PALESTINE. IN SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT GEMAYAL EULOGIZED SYRIANS.

4. ALL THIS IS BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH LUCIEN DAHDAH WENT TO DAMASCUS YESTERDAY AS COURIER BETWEEN FRANGIE AND ASAD AND WILL RETURN TODAY. JUMBLATT AND OTHER LEADING LEFTISTS ARE GOING TO DAMASCUS TODAY. PRESS STORIES ARE AGAIN SUGGESTING KHADDAM MAY RETURN TO BEIRUT TOMORROW AND PLAN FOR EXPANDING GOVERNMENT MAY BE PUT INTO EFFECT. SHOULD JUMBLATT'S OBJECTIONS SOMEHOW BE MET OR OVERCOME, THIS LEAVES CHAMOUN MAIN MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ENLARGED GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME.

5. THERE WERE SOME MORE ARMY DESERTIONS. 26 MOSLEM SOLDIERS NEAR ZAGHORTA DESERTED TO RENEGADE ARMY FORCES UNDER MAJOR MAMARI IN TRIPOLI. AN ARTILLERY BATTERY WITH FOUR 122MM GUNS AND ABOUT FIFTY MEN DESERTED THIS MORNING TO KHATIB FORCES WHICH REPORTEDLY ARE MOVING SOUTH INTO THE ARQUB TO INTEGRATE THEIR OPERATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FORCES THERE (PRESUMABLY AGAINST ISRAEL)

6. ISOLATED GANGSTERISM CONTINUES. GEORGE DEBBAS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD WERE GUNNED DOWN
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BY THREE MEN WHO TOOK OVER HIS VILLA IN MESHREF SATURDAY EVENING. GIVEN DEBBAS' CHECKERED FINANCIAL CAREER, THERE ARE SUSPICIONS PERSONAL ANIMOSITY WAS INVOLVED. JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES SAY THEY KNOW WHO THE PERPETRATORS ARE AND HOPE TO ARREST THEM SOON. THERE WERE ALSO SOME OTHER MURDERS WHICH BORE MARKINGS OF FAMILY FEUDS. AT SAME TIME, JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE RELEASED ON FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS BAIL (ABOUT 200 DOLLARS)

THE PERPETRATOR OF ATTACK ON CANADIAN EMBASSY A COUPLE
OF WEEKS AGO. I ASSUME THIS WILL RAISE CONSIDERABLE
PROBLEMS FOR OUR CANDIAN COLLEAGUES HERE . CANDIAN
EMBASSY IS SEEING PEOPLE ON APPOINTMENT BASIS ONLY
AND CONSIDERING FURTHER SECURITY STEPS, INCLUDING
(POSSIBLY) MORE SECURITY PROTECTION PEOPLE FROM CANADA.
LAMBRAKIS

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